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ABSTRACT

Eighteen diverse Hispanic Americans aged 60 and over residing in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, a non-barrio environment, were questioned to ascertain the attitudes of elderly Hispanic Americans in the county toward nursing homes. A bilingual questionnaire, consisting of 17 questions, was used to collect demographic information, determine opinions of elderly Hispanic Americans toward nursing homes, explain why elderly Hispanic Americans choose not to live in nursing homes, and ascertain under what conditions they would consider residing in a nursing home. Hispanic American interviewers administered the questionnaire to nine male and nine female respondents. Data indicated that 4 respondents had no formal education while 3 had graduated from college (1 as a home economics teacher and 2 as Ph.D.'s); 13 respondents lived in private homes while 5 lived in apartments; 11 respondents were married; 3 divorced/separated, and 4 widowed; and 6 respondents were currently employed and 12 were retired. Respondents indicated that the most important reason for considering residence in a nursing home was cost, followed by need for 24-hour-a-day health care. Least important consideration was that the nursing home be staffed by bilingual/bicultural personnel. Residence in a nursing home was viewed as a positive rather than as a negative alternative. (NQA)

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ATTITUDES OF ELDERLY HISPANIC AMERICANS IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY TOWARD NURSING HOMES

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ABSTRACT

In a descriptive study, diverse Hispanic Americans aged sixty and above residing in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, a non-barrio environment, were questioned to determine: (1) why elderly Hispanic Americans choose not to live in nursing homes and (2) under what conditions they would consider residing in a nursing home. A bilingual instrument administered by Hispanic American interviewers was used to gather data.

The present study does not support contentions of previous studies, conducted on elderly Western U.S. Mexican-Americans, that choice not to reside in a nursing home is based on a cultural determinant rather than location of the home within the community or cost factors, and that they viewed residence in a nursing home as a last resort. Instead, data from this study indicate that the most important reason for considering residence in a nursing home is cost, followed by need for 24-hour-a-day health care, and, least important, that the nursing home be staffed by bilingual/bicultural personnel. Residence in a nursing home is viewed as a positive rather than as a negative alternative.

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ATTITUDES OF ELDERLY HISPANIC AMERICANS TOWARD NUSRING HOMES IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

The Hispanic-Americans

"Chicanos, Boricua, Mexican American, Latino, Puerto Rican, Spanish American, Raza, Latin American, Hispanic, Spanish Origin, White Person of Spanish Surname. The list of names seems endless and confusing. Which term is correct?" (Hayes-Bautista, 1980) suggests that the collective term "Raza" be used to refer to all the population groups mentioned, and that the term be defined and standardized in order to reduce discrimination. Notwithstanding Hayes-Bautista's suggestion, the population groups mentioned who currently reside in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, prefer to be recognized as Hispanic Americans. Therefore, for the purpose of this study, the term Hispanic Americans will be used to identify these population groups.

The Hispanic population in the U.S. is the fastest growing minority population. It is a heterogeneous group comprised of several Hispanic cultures that have been grouped together because they share the same language. Mexican Americans represent approximately 60 percent of the entire Hispanic population; followed by Puerto Ricans, representing some 14 percent; and Cubans, representing 6 percent. The remaining 20 percent are from Central or South America and Europe. (Torres-Gil and Negm, 1980, p. 3) In addition, the latter 20 percent also includes those whose ancestors settled Spanish land grants in the Southwest 400 or more years ago. Further, the heterogeneity of the Hispanic Americans is also indicated by the fact this segment of the

U.S. population is composed of Whites, Blacks and Indians: and its members are included in each of the socio-economic strata.

Even though the Hispanics are younger than the U.S. population as a whole, their median age, like all other groups, is increasing. (Data Track, 1979, pp. 8-9) It also is interesting to note that even though the median income of the Mexican American (a segment of the Hispanic) population is generally below that of the total population (Eribes and Bradely-Rawls, 1978), the results of a study conducted in Alameda County, California, by Roberts and Lee (1980) suggest that the overall health status of the Mexican American [Hispanic] population now compares favorably with the health of other subgroups [within the U.S.].

Better health, increased longevity, and the upward mobility of their children coupled with the loss of anticipated roles brought about by the family changing from an extended to a nuclear family has had a dramatic effect on the aged Mexican [Hispanic] American. (Maldonado, 1975) This in turn has made housing for the elderly a major concern. (Eribes and Bradley-Rawls, 1978)

The literature clearly indicated that in the total population the number, but not the proportion, of elderly in nursing homes has been on the increase. Yet, even with the increasing number of these facilities, their utilization by the minority elderly has never been significant. (Pollak, 1976) Soldo (1977) substantiates this by indicating that nationally only about 6 percent of the elderly residing in nursing homes are nonwhite. How much of this 6 percent is Hispanic American is difficult to estimate since the Hispanic population may be double counted as nonwhite and Hispanic.

Background for this Study

The present study builds on two studies--one by Eribes and Bradley-Rawls (1978) and the other by Luevano (1981).

The purpose of the Eribes and Bradley-Rawls study was to explore the situation of Mexican Americans in the Phoenix, Arizona, Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) as it related to their use of nursing homes, and to ascertain the appropriateness of these residential settings to this particular ethnic group.

To accomplish this study, they utilized three primary data sources:

(1) 1970 U.S. Census information

(2) State-wide vital statistics

(3) A mail-back questionnaire of (the 38) state licensed nursing homes (within the Phoenix SMSA). (p. 364)

Eribes and Bradley-Rawls suggested the following four alternative explanations for the underutilization of nursing homes by Mexican Americans:

(1) Geographic determinant. Nursing homes are not being built within Mexican-American communities.

(2) Biological-health determinant. Mexican-Americans simply don't live long enough to need nursing homes.

(3) Economic determinant. Older Mexican-Americans cannot afford to utilize nursing homes.

(4) Cultural determinant. Nursing homes are culturally inappropriate to Mexican-Americans. (pp. 365-66)

However, they found that: on the surface, underutilization of nursing homes by the older Mexican-American might be explained rather by looking at life expectancy, location of the population versus location of facilities, and level of income within the group.

Luevano (1981) summarized Eribes and Bradley-Rawls conclusions as follows:

> In the final analysis it would appear the underutilization is a result of something particular and internal to this population group. This research has chosen to conceptualize this factor as being culturally related. It is clear that if at all possible, Mexican-American families try to keep their elderly out of institutionalized facilities. It appears that the nursing home is not viewed as a culturally viable alternative, but rather as an alternative of last resort. Therefore, policy must be explored which rewards, or at least supports, this propensity of Mexican-Americans to handle the housing and medical care of their elderly in other than the institutional setting. Society presently offers little help to families which choose, for whatever reason, to opt out of the nursing home system. (p. 2)

The purpose of the Luevano (1981) study was to try and ascertain the attitudes of elderly Mexican Americans in Stanislaus County (California) toward nursing homes that might explain the following: (1) why elderly Mexican Americans choose not to live in a nursing home facility and (2) under what conditions would they consider taking residence in a nursing home. (p. 3)

The data for the Luevano study were obtained by use of a bilingual--English and Spanish--questionnaire consisting of sixteen questions. And was administered by bilingual outreach workers to 67 elderly Mexican Americans residing in Stanislaus County.

Luevano (1981) found that his data supported the findings in the Eribes and Bradley-Rawls (1978) study and thereby concluded that:

> Based on the information gathered on the questionnaire concerning the attitudes of elderly Mexican Americans in Stanislaus County toward nursing homes, the data supports the contention by Eribes and [Bradley] Rawls that the main reason for elderly Mexican Americans choosing not to reside in a nursing home facility is based on a cultural determinant as opposed to either a geographical or economic determinant. In addition, it points to the need for establishing nursing home facilities that would be staffed to meet the cultural needs of this ethnic group. Finally, the information supports the contention by Eribes and [Bradley] Rawls that the elderly Mexican American views residence in a nursing home facility as a last resort and not a choice. (p. 11)

Guadiana (1980) in a study pertaining particularly to the Hispanic elderly in Southwest Detroit, Michigan, stated that: "For the most part, Hispanic

elderly continue to maintain independent households with very few being residents of nursing homes. ...Hispanic elderly choose to remain in their own homes for many of the same reasons which their Black and White counterparts choose as well; these reasons include the desire to remain in familiar surroundings and to maintain their own personal belongings." (p. 11)

A survey of the nursing homes located within Kalamazoo County, Michigan, revealed that there was only one Hispanic American resident in all of the homes. It, therefore, became apparent that unless the system, i.e., government and private agencies, and the Hispanic American elderly are able to relate their services and needs to each other, there will be no resolution of the seemingly existing situation of underutilization of nursing homes.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF KALAMAZOO COUNTY

Kalamazoo County is characterized by a blend of corn belt values and East Coast sophistication. Its 212,378 residents enjoy a quality of life rated among the ten best in the nation in a 1975 survey by the Midwest Research Institute.

As a crossroads location, situated midway between Detroit and Chicago, Kalamazoo County, in addition to being in the heart of an agricultural area, is one of the largest and most diversified industrial centers in Michigan with well over 300 firms manufacturing more than 1,500 products.

Kalamazoo County is also the home for a major state university, three colleges, a business school and diverse cultural institutions. (Polk and Co., 1982, pp. IX-XVIII)

Even though Kalamazoo County is not in the mainstream of the Hispanic-American migrant farmer route, some have decided to establish roots in the area by becoming permanent residents.

The 1980 U.S. Census, STS3 (1983) indicated that the Kalamazoo County population consists of the following:

TABLE 1

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF POPULATION

	Population	Percent of Population
All Ages, All Races	212,378	-
Hispanic All Ages	2,434	1.1%
All Races 60+	26,772	-
Hispanics 60+	138	0.5%
All Races 65+	18,930	-
Hispanics 65+	73	0.4%

Source: 1980 U.S. Census, STS 3 (1983)

It is important to note that the Hispanic American community of Kalamazoo County is diverse in nature, e.g., there is no Hispanic barrio, they live in all areas of the County; the Hispanic population comprises those of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American and native born U.S. origin: there are those with no formal education to those with Ph.D.'s; some are farm laborers while others are professionals; and some are poverty stricken while other are affluent.

In summary, they are a cross section of Americana.

NURSING HOME FACILITIES

Kalamazoo County has 15 nursing homes with a total of 1,508 beds of which 788 beds are Medicare certified. One thousand and six of the beds are in skilled nursing facilities and five hundred and two are in intermediate/basic nursing

facilities. (Southwest Michigan Health Systems Agency, 1982)

DEFINITIONS

Skilled Nursing Facility.

According to the State of Michigan, Act No. 368, Public Acts of 1978 (Enrolled House Bill No. 4070), a hospital long-term care unit, nursing home, county medical care facility, or other nursing care facility, or a distinct part thereof, certified by the Department of Public Health to provide skilled nursing care by licensed personnel shall be called a skilled nursing facility.

Intermediate/Basic Nursing Home

According to the State of Michigan, Act No. 368, Public Acts of 1978 (Enrolled House Bill No. 4070), a hospital long-term care unit, nursing home, county medical care facility, or other nursing care facility, or distinct part thereof, certified by the Department of Public Health to provide intermediate care or basic care that is less than skilled nursing care but more than room and board shall be called an intermediate or basic nursing home.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The purpose of this study is to ascertain the attitudes of the elderly (60+ years of age) Hispanic Americans in Kalamazoo County toward nursing homes and to answer the following questions: (1) why elderly Hispanic Americans choose not to live in a nursing home facility and (2) under what conditions they would consider taking residence in a nursing home.

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

The data, for this study, were obtained by modifying the questionnaire used in the Luevano (1981) study, Appendix A. The major modifications were as

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follows: (1) the word "elderly" in the title was deleted since the local Hispanics did not consider themselves elderly until they were at least 70+ years of age, (2) "los asilos de ancianos" was changed to "los casas de ancianos" due to the negative connotative of "los asilos," (3) "Mexican American" was changed to "Hispanic American" to relate to the scope of the study, (4) questions relating to location and/or operation of the nursing homes were deleted and/or changed to indicate bilingual/bicultural staffing in order to reflect local conditions, and (5) a question was added to ascertain the respondent's priority of importance for considering residence in a nursing home. The above modifications were based on suggestions made when validating the questionnaire.

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The questionnaire, Appendix B, and General Introduction Letter, Appendix C, were available in both English and Spanish. This was done in order that the interview could be conducted in the language that the respondent could best understand and would feel most comfortable.

The questionnaire, consisting of seventeen questions was designed to: (1) collect demographic information, (2) determine opinions of the elderly Hispanic Americans had about nursing homes, (3) explain why elderly Hispanic Americans choose not to live in nursing homes, and (4) ascertain under what conditions they would consider taking up a residence in a nursing home.

The most difficult task was to establish a random sample of the 60+ year olds of this diverse population. The complexity of the problem arose when inquiry revealed that no organization or individual, within the County, had more than partial knowledge of this group. In addition, it was found that many persons of Mexican origin, upon nearing and/or reaching retirement age, elected to return to the Southwest where they had family and/or cultural roots. As a consequence, a random sample could not be established. In lieu thereof,

a "convenience" sample was utilized.

Five members of the Kalamazoo County Hispanic American Council agreed to assist in the identification process of the 60+ year old group, the administration of the questionnaire and the gathering of information. All were bilingual Hispanics and had rapport with the elderly Hispanic Americans of Kalamazoo County. Prior to gathering data, several meetings were held with each of the interviewers for the purpose of explaining the questionnaire and the method of obtaining the information.

At the end of a six-week period, a sample of eighteen elderly Hispanic Americans was obtained and their responses were analyzed for the purpose of this study.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

For ease in comparing the data in this study with the Luevano (1981) study, the "Analysis of Data" format utilized by Luevano was followed.

The demographic information on the sample that was gathered from Question 2 through 13 on the questionnaire (see Appendix B) is as follows:

Demographic Findings

Sex: Of the sample of 18 respondents, 9 were male and 9 were female.

Age Group: The sample was represented in the following age groups: (a) 60-64, 7 persons (38.89%); (b) 65-69, 6 persons (33.33%); (c) 70-74, 4 persons (22.22%); and (d) 85 and over, 1 person (5.56%). (Question 13)

Education: The average number of years of education completed by the sample was 8.28 years, with 4 persons indicating that they had no formal education. Four persons indicated that they had some college. Three persons had graduated college with 1 as a home economics teacher and 2 as Ph.D.'s--

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1 of whom received his degree in biochemistry and pharmacy and the other in pharmacy. (Question 12)

Language Spoken: Three persons (16.67% of the sample spoke Spanish only, 5 persons (27.78%) spoke very little English, and 10 persons (55.56%) spoke both Spanish and English. (Question 10)

Birthplace: Nine persons (50%) of the sample were born in the United States of whom 8 were of Mexican and 1 of Cuban origin. One person (5.56%) was born in Mexico, 4 persons (22.22%) were born in Puerto Rico, 3 persons (16.67%) were born in Cuba, and 1 person (5.56%) was born in Argentina. (Question 8)

If Born in other than the United States, Years Lived in the United States: The mean number of years of residence in the United States for those individuals born in other countries was 27.67 years with 4 years being the shortest and 65 years being the longest. (Question 9)

Current Place of Residence: The 18 persons in the sample resided in 4 different communities throughout Kalamazoo County with the highest number 11 (61.11%) coming from the City of Kalamazoo, followed by the City of Portage and Kalamazoo Townshir with 3 persons (16.67%) each, and Oshtemo with 1 person (5.56%). (Question 3)

Type of Building Lived in: Thirteen persons (72.22%) of the sample live in private homes, while 5 persons (27.78%) live in an apartment. (Question 4)

Number of Years Lived at Present Address: Thirteen persons (72.22%) of the sample have lived at their present address for ten years or less, with two having resided at his/her present address for only one month and five months respectively. Of the sample, 5 persons (27.78%) have lived at their present address for more than 10 years, with 2 having lived at their present address for 40 years. (Question 6)

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Marital Status: Eleven persons (61.11%) of the sample were married, three persons (16.67%) were divorced/separated, and four persons (22.22%) were widowed. (Question 7)

Respondents Presently Live with: Eleven persons (61.11%) of the sample live with their spouse, three persons (16.67%) live with their children, one person (5.56%) lives with other relatives, two persons (11.11%) live alone, and one (5.56%) lives with a girlfriend and her daughters. (Question 5)

Type of Employment: Six persons (33.33%) of the sample are currently employed, and twelve persons (66.66%) are presently retired. Of those 6 persons currently employed: 1 person is a homemaker, 1 is a City Park Department employee, 2 are part-time greenhouse workers, 1 is a secretary, and 1 is a biochemist/pharmacist. Of those 12 persons presently retired: 1 person is a homemaker, 1 did embroidering and sewing, 4 did farming/gardening, 1 was an industrial laborer, 1 was a butcher, 2 were secretaries, 1 was a home economics teacher, and 1 was a pharmacist. (Question 11)

Attitudes Toward Nursing Homes

The attitudes of the sample of elderly Hispanic Americans in Kalamazoo County toward nursing homes was obtained from Questions 14 through 17 on the questionnaire.

The following is an analysis of questions 14 through 17:

Do You Know What A Nursing Home Is? If So, What Is Your Opinion About Nursing Homes?:

All 18 persons of the sample indicated they knew what a nursing home is and offered their opinions. The results indicated that 4 persons (22.22%) of the opinions given about nursing homes were negative (Appendix D) while the opinions of 14 persons (77.78%) were positive (Appendix E). On the surface, it would appear that an overwhelming majority of the sample had a positive

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opinion about nursing homes. However, of the 14 persons of the sample that had a positive opinion, nearly one-third, i.e., 5 persons (35.71%) of that number, indicated that nursing homes were needed but only for those individuals who either had no one to take care of them or for those who could no longer independently take care of himself/herself. In other words, this segment of the sample viewed nursing homes as clearly being useful, but only as a last resort. On-the-other hand, 9 persons (50%) or half of the sample had distinctly positive comments relative to the usefulness and need of nursing homes. Therefore, these opinions neither support nor contradict the contention by the Eribes and Bradley-Rawls (1978) study and the Luevano (1981) study that the nursing home is viewed as a negative alternative of last resort. It is interesting to note that of the 4 negative responses only 1 is based on actual visits to a nursing home while the other 3 are based on word-of-mouth information. However, 3 of the 4 respondents with no formal education and 5 of the 7 persons who had attended and/or graduated from college were of the opinion that nursing homes were useful and needed. (Question 14)

What Information Do You Have About Nursing Homes?

In terms of what sources of information were used to form an opinion of nursing homes, 5 individuals (27.78%) indicated they had no or very limited information, 6 individuals (33.33%) indicated their source of information was by word-of-mouth, and 7 individuals (38.89%) based their information on visitations to nursing homes. This data supports the Carp (1970) and Luevano (1981) studies pertaining to the Mexican Americans wherein the majority of information is received via "face to face" communication. The data suggests and supports Luevano's contention that there is a need to develop alternative methods of providing information to the elderly [Hispanic American] if the communication of information to this group is going to be effective. In

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addition, an informal random sample of elderly non-Hispanic Americans within Kalamazoo County indicated similar findings. Therefore, alternative methods of providing information regarding nursing homes should be provided to all the elderly in the County. (Question 15)

It appears that most elderly Hispanic Americans do not choose to live in nursing homes. Some of the following reasons have been offered to explain this: 1) Older persons and their families cannot afford the cost of nursing home care, 2) The nursing homes are not staffed with bilingual/bicultural personnel, and 3) The tradition of the Hispanic American family rejects the idea of residence in a nursing home. Which of these explanations makes the most sense to you?

Based on the 18 responses to this question, the results were as follows: (a) 10 persons (55.56%) indicated cost as a reason, (b) 1 person (5.56%) indicated lack of bilingual/bicultural staff as a reason, and (c) 7 persons (38.89%) indicated cultural tradition as a reason why elderly Hispanic Americans choose not to live in nursing homes. Unlike the Eribes and Bradley-Rawls and Luevano studies, the data indicated that cost and not the cultural tradition was the major reason why elderly Hispanic Americans choose not to live in nursing homes. In addition, the sample indicated that lack of bilingual/bicultural staff was an inconsequential reason.

The comments made by 12 individuals to the second part of this question (Question 16), i.e., "Can you think of any other reasons that might explain why elderly Hispanic Americans do not choose to live in a nursing home?" were similar to those in the Eribes and Bradley-Rawls (1978) study and the Luevano (1981) study. In this study, like the other two studies, the respondents were of the opinion that the major factor as to why elderly Mexican Americans [Hispanic] choose not to live in a nursing home facility is based on a cultural determinant (Appendix F). However, unlike the other two studies, the respondents

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to this study appeared to indicate that a "cultural determinant" is why other elderly Hispanic Americans choose not to live in a nursing home and not necessarily why they themselves would consider not doing so. (See analysis of Question 17.)

Would You Consider Residence In A Nursing Home Under Any Of The Following Conditions? 1. If Services Were Made Available At No Cost, 2. If Nursing Home Facilities Have Bilingual/Bicultural Staff, and 3. If You Required 24-Hour A Day Health Care Service.

Based on the 50 responses to the three above choices (several individuals selected more than one choice and one individual selected none of the choices) indicated in the question, the results were as follows: (1) Of the sample of 18 persons: 12 persons (66.67%) indicated that they would consider residence in a nursing home if the services were free, 4 persons (22.22%) indicated that they would not consider residence under this condition, while 2 persons (11.12%) made no comment: (2) of the sample of 18 persons: 13 persons (72.22%) indicated that they would consider residence in a nursing home if the staff was bilingual/bicultural, 3 persons (16.67%) indicated that they would not consider residence under this condition, while 2 persons (11.12%) made no comment: and (3) of the sample of 18 persons: 17 persons (94.44%) indicated that they would consider residence in a nursing home if they required 24-hour a day health care service, while only 1 person (5.56%) indicated that he would not consider residence under this condition.

The above data suggested that need for 24-hour a day health care service rather than culture, as indicated in the Luevano (1981) study, was the overwhelming reason given for him/her to consider residence in a nursing home. It is important to note that under each of the three conditions, the

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vast majority of the sample indicated that they would consider residence in a nursing home. (Question 17 A)

Can You Tell Me Which Of The Conditions Stated In Question 17 A Is: 1. The Most Important, 2. The Second Most Important, and 3. The Third Most Important.

The findings in this question differed from that in Question 17 A wherein the 18 responses to this question suggested that: (1) the most important reason for considering residence in a nursing home was cost with 9 persons (50%) who indicated this as the upper-most reason. This was closely followed by 8 persons (44.44%) who indicated that need for 24-hour a day health care service was second most important. The third most, and least, important reason was statistically insignificant as only 1 person (5.56%) indicated the necessity for nursing home facilities to have bilingual/bicultural staff. (2) The data suggested that the second most important reason for considering residence in a nursing home was bilingual/bicultural staffing and need for 24-hour a day health care services wherein 7 persons (38.89%) indicated each of these two conditions. This was followed by 4 persons (22.22%) indicating that cost was the second most important reason. And, (3) in response to what is the third most, and least, important reason for considering residence in a nursing home 10 persons (55.56%) indicated the need for bilingual/bicultural staffing: this was followed by 5 persons (27.78%) indicating cost as the reason and then by 3 persons (16.67%) indicating need for 24-hour a day health care service as the reason.

Again, the data, unlike the Luevano (1981) study, suggested that culture, i.e., bilingual/bicultural staffing, is not the most important condition in their consideration of residence in a nursing home. (Question 17 B)

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Are There Any Other Conditions That Would Lead You To Consider Taking Residence In A Nursing Home?

The comments made by 13 individuals who responded to this question (Appendix G), again did not support the contention by Eribes and Bradley-Rawls (1978) and Luevano (1981) that the main reasons for elderly Mexican Americans [Hispanic] choosing not to reside in a nursing home facility is cultural. In addition, the comments of the respondents to this study did not support their contention that elderly Mexican Americans [Hispanic] view residence in a nursing home facility as a last resort and not as a choice.

Unlike the contention by Eribes and Bradley-Rawls, Luevano, and Atchley (1980) that most older people regard nursing homes in a very negative way, the respondents to this study indicated that they viewed residence in a nursing home as a positive alternative, and supported the contention by Hess and Waring (1978) that old people value greatly their independence, preferring to live alone until they can no longer do so.

In addition, the data also supported the contention by Woehrer (1978) that just as the ethnic family influences the interaction of its members with the wider society, so also does the wider society have an impact on the ethnic family. (Question 17 C)

INTERVIEW WITH A NURSING HOME RESIDENT

The following data were compiled during an interview with the only elderly Hispanic American currently residing in a nursing home in Kalamazoo County: the interviewee is a female who had lived for three years with her daughter in a private home prior to moving to a nursing home. She is widowed, was born in Puerto Rico, has lived in the U.S. on and off for more than

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twenty-five years, communicates only in Spanish, was a homemaker, has a sixth grade education, and is over 85 years of age. Prior to moving to the nursing home, she had no opinion about nursing homes. However, now that she has lived, for two years, in this nursing home, she is well impressed and satisfied. She is of the opinion that a nursing home is a good place for the elderly who need constant care. In addition, she feels secure and very confident. Further, the care is excellent and the employees do their upmost to provide the best care, including meeting the spiritual needs of the residents. She also believes that the reason most elderly Hispanic Americans do not choose to live in nursing homes is based on a "closeness to family" and the familiarity that one has at home. She holds that cost is the most important consideration for taking residence in a nursing home. This is followed by need for 24-hour a day health care service as the second most important. And, even though she only communicates in Spanish, she feels that the lack of bilingual/bicultural staff is the third and least most important consideration.

At present, there are no nursing homes operating in Kalamazoo County that are staffed with bilingual/bicultural personnel.

A discussion also was held with the daughter of the institutionalized woman. She expressed the dilemma she was placed in when her mother's forgetfulness threatened the safety of the mother when being left alone. However, the daughter was like the "woman in the middle" as described by Brody (1981) since she had to work to support the two of them. In addition, she also described the "trail blazer" traumatic experiences she faced which was brought on by her strong feeling of filial responsibility and how it affected her with respect to anxiety for the safety of her mother, resentment toward those who were of the opinion she was defying the customs of the Hispanic community,

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and her feeling of guilt. Furthermore, at the time and to the best of her knowledge, there was no available service agency program to assist her in taking care of her mother while she worked nor was there an available support group to help her in rationalizing and/or justifying a decision to institutionalize her mother. It should be noted that at the time of institutionalization, the daughter was working as a college-trained white collar profession. Now that she, too, is an elder, she was asked whether she would want to be institutionalized. She unequivocably answered that "she would take up residency in a nursing home at the time she felt she could no longer live independently and had no qualms about doing so."

At the present time, there are at least three more Hispanic American families who, in coordination with their respective parents, are investigating and considering nursing home residency.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The Hispanic American community of Kalamazoo County is diverse in nature since the Hispanic population comprises those of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American and native born U.S. origin. In addition, its members are interspersed among the residential areas of the County and belong to all socio-economic strata of the County. As such they are truly heterogeneous and are a cross-section of Americana.

The purpose of the present study was to ascertain the attitudes of the elderly (60+ years of age) Hispanic Americans in Kalamazoo County toward nursing homes and to answer the following questions: (1) why elderly Hispanic Americans choose not to live in a nursing home facility and (2) under what

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conditions they would consider taking residence in a nursing home.

Eighteen (18) elderly Hispanic Americans from throughout Kalamazoo County were administered a questionnaire consisting of 17 questions. The questionnaire was designed to: (1) collect demographic information, (2) determine the opinions the elderly Hispanic Americans had about nursing homes, (3) explain why elderly Hispanic Americans choose not to live in nursing homes, and (4) ascertain under what conditions they would consider taking up a residence in a nursing home.

Conclusions

Based on the information gathered from the questionnaire concerning the attitudes of elderly Hispanic Americans in Kalamazoo County toward nursing homes, the data did not support the contention by the Eribes and Bradley-Rawls and Luevano studies pertaining to elderly Mexican Americans that the main reason for that group choosing not to reside in a nursing home facility is based on a cultural determinant as opposed to either a geographical or economic determinant. Instead, the data of this study indicated that the most important reason for considering residence in a nursing home was economic, followed by need for 24-hour a day health care service, and the least important that the nursing home be staffed by bilingual/bicultural personnel. Only 1 respondent chose the latter as a reason. Therefore, the data did not suggest that nursing home facilities must be staffed with bilingual/bicultural personnel to meet the needs of the Kalamazoo County Hispanic Americans. Finally, the data also did not support the conclusions of the Eribes and Bradley-Rawls and Luevano studies that the elderly Mexican American views residence in a nursing home facility as a last resort and not a choice. Instead, the Kalamazoo County Hispanic American views

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residence in a nursing home facility as a positive rather than negative alternative choice and will willingly take up residency when he/she can no longer live independently and/or becomes a burden to his/her spouse or children.

In summary, the data gathered from interviewing the diverse Hispanic Americans residing in Kalamazoo County suggested that they supported the contention by Hess and Waring (1978) that old people value greatly their independence, preferring to live alone until they can no longer do so. And also supported the contention by Woehrer (1978) that just as the ethnic family influences the interaction of its members with the wider society, so also does the wider society have an impact on the ethnic family.

Further Research

Further research is indicated and should be directed at those elderly Hispanic Americans who are presently residing in small non-Hispanic communities within the United States. The research instrument should include additional questions relative to those posed in this study, e.g., the religion and religiosity of the elder, the annual income and source of income of the elder, the current health status of the elder, the elder's knowledge relative to assistance programs, and the distance that their children live from them. In addition, questions also should be directed toward the children, e.g., place of birth, age, education, marital status, type of employment, annual income, distance they live from parent(s), attitude toward filial responsibility, and attitude toward nursing homes. (Seelbach, 1978)

Recommendations

This study suggested that the Kalamazoo County Hispanic American Council might consider: (1) establishing and maintaining a list of the elderly Hispanic Americans residing in the County, (2) applying for a grant from the local

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Area Agency on Aging to develop and establish a support group for families of aged Hispanic American persons such as the "As Parents Grow Older" Program developed by Brahce (1980), (3) coordinating with the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to assure that the elderly Hispanic Americans are included in the development and implementation of the local AAA Respite Program, (4) developing and establishing a program which will familiarize this ethnic group with the availability of services, (5) developing and establishing a volunteer group to assist the elderly Hispanic American in living an independent life as long as possible, (6) coordinating with the service agencies and service providers to assure that the elderly Hispanic Americans receive the support required, (7) coordinating with the nursing homes to assure that the elderly Hispanic American residents receive the cultural reinforcement and care required, and (8) having a member of the Council serve as a member on the Kalamazoo County Commission on Aging and on the South-central Michigan Commission on Aging.

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APPENDIX A

ATTITUDES OF ELDERLY MEXICAN AMERICANS IN STANISLAUS COUNTY TOWARD NURSING HOMES

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE:

1. INTERVIEWER: _____.

   TIME AND DATE OF INTERVIEW _____.

FROM OBSERVATION INTERVIEWER RECORDS THE FOLLOWING:

2. SEX OF RESPONDENT: MALE.....1
   (CIRCLE APPROPRIATE NUMBER) FEMALE.....5

INTERVIEWER ASKS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

3. WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE?
   (RECORD CITY OR TOWN) _____.

4. WHAT KIND OF BUILDING DO YOU LIVE IN? PRIVATE HOUSE.....1
   APARTMENT.....2
   OTHER _____.

---

5. WHO DO YOU PRESENTLY LIVE WITH? SPOUSE.....1
   CHILDREN.....2
   RELATIVES.....3
   BY SELF.....4
   OTHER _____.

6. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED AT THIS ADDRESS?
   (RECORD NUMBER OF YEARS & MONTHS) _____.

---

7. WHAT IS YOUR MARITAL STATUS? SINGLE (NEVER MARRIED).....1
   (CIRCLE APPROPRIATE NUMBER) MARRIED.....2
   DIVORCED/SEPARATED.....3
   WIDOWED.....4

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ACTITUDES DE LOS ANCIANOS
MEXICO AMERICANOS ACERCA DE LOS
ASILOS DE ANCIANOS EN EL CONDADO DE ESTANISLAUS

DATOS DE LA ENTREVISTA:

1. ENTREVISTADOR:_____.

   HORA Y FECHA DE LA ENTREVISTA_____.

DE LO OBSERVADO EL ENTREVISTADOR ANOTA LO SIGUIENTE:

2. SEXO DEL ENTREVISTADO: MASCULINO.....1
   (CIRCULE EL NUMERO APROPIADO) FEMENINO.....5

EL ENTREVISTADOR HACE LAS SIGUIENTES PREGUNTAS:

3. ¿DONDE VIVE UD. ACTUALMENTE?
   (ANOTE LA CIUDAD O PUEBLO)_____.

4. ¿EN QUE TIPO DE VIVIENDA VIVE USTED? CASA PROPIA.....1
   APARTAMENTO.....2
   OTRA(O)_____.

---

5. ¿CON QUIEN VIVE USTED ACTUALMENTE? ESPOSA(O).....1
   HIJOS.....2
   PARIENTES.....3
   SOLA(O).....4
   OTRO_____.

6. ¿CUANTO TIEMPO HA VIVIDO EN ESTA DIRECCION?
   (ANOTE EL NUMERO DE AÑOS Y MESES)_____.

---

7. ¿CUAL ES SU ESTADO CIVIL? SOLTERO (NUNCA CASADO).....1
   (CIRCULE EL NUMERO APROPIADO) CASADO(A).....2
   DIVORCIADO/SEPARADO.....3
   VIUDO(A).....4

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8. WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

UNITED STATES.....1

MEXICO.....2

OTHER_____.

IF THE PERSON WAS BORN IN MEXICO ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTION, OTHERWISE PROCEED TO QUESTION #10.

9. HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE UNITED STATES?

(RECORD NUMBER OF YEARS & MONTHS)_____.

---

10. IN WHAT LANGUAGE(S) CAN YOU COMMUNICATE?

SPANISH.....1

ENGLISH.....2

BOTH OF THE ABOVE.....3

OTHER(S)_____

_____

---

11. WHAT KINDS OF WORK DID YOU DO FOR THE LONGEST PERIOD OF TIME?

(RECORD ANSWER)_____

_____.

HOW LONG?_____.

ARE YOU PRESENTLY RETIRED? YES_____ NO_____.

IF PERSON IS RETIRED ASK:

WHAT KIND OF WORK WERE YOU DOING WHEN YOU RETIRED?_____

_____

_____.

12. WHAT IS YOUR PAST EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE?_____

_____

_____.

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8. ¿DONDE NACIO USTED?

ESTADOS UNIDOS.....1

MEXICO.....2

OTRO_____.

SI LA PERSONA NACIO EN MEXICO HAGA LA SIGUIENTE PREGUNTA SI NO CONTINUE CON LA PREGUNTA NUMERO 10.

9. ¿CUANTOS AÑOS HA VIVIDO EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS?

(ANOTE EL NUMERO DE AÑOS Y MESES)_____.

---

10. ¿EN QUE IDIOMA(S) PUEDE USTED COMUNICARSE?

ESPAÑOL.....1

INGLES.....2

AMBOS.....3

OTRO_____

_____

---

11. ¿QUE CLASE DE TRABAJO HIZO USTED DURANTE LA MAYOR PARTE DE SU VIDA?

(ANOTE LA RESPUESTA)_____

_____.

¿CUANTO TIEMPO?_____.

ACTUALMENTE ¿ESTA USTED JUBILADO? SI_____ NO_____.

SI LA PERSONA ESTA JUBILADA PREGUNTE LO SIGUIENTE:

¿QUE CLASE DE TRABAJO HACIA USTED CUANDO LO JUBILARON?_____

_____

_____.

12. ¿CUAL ES LA EDUCACION QUE HA RECIBIDO?_____

_____

_____.

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13. WITHIN WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING GROUPS DOES YOUR AGE FALL?

55-59.....1

60-64.....2

65-69.....3

70-74.....4

75-79.....5

80-84.....6

85 & OVER.....7

---

14. DO YCU KNOW WHAT A NURSING HOME IS? YES_____ NO_____

IF THE PERSON SAYS YES, ASK:

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT NURSING HOMES?_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

WHAT SOURCES OF INFORMATION HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT TO YOU IN DEVELOPING YOUR OPINION ABOUT NURSING HOMES? _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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13. ¿CON CUAL DE LOS SIGUIENTES GRUPOS RELACIONA USTED SU EDAD?

55-59.....1

60-64.....2

65-69.....3

70-74.....4

75-79.....5

80-84.....6

85 O MAS.....7

---

14. ¿SABE USTED LO QUE ES UN ASILO DE ANCIANOS? SI_____ NO_____

SI LA PERSONA RESPONDE QUE SI, PREGUNTELE.

¿CUAL ES SU OPINION ACERA DE LOS ASILOS DE ANCIANOS?_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

¿QUE FUENTES DE INFORMACION HAN SIDO IMPORTANTES EN EL DESARROLLO DE SU OPINION ACERCA ASILOS DE ANCIANOS?_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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15. IT APPEARS THAT MOST ELDERLY MEXICAN AMERICANS DO NOT CHOOSE TO LIVE IN NURSING HOMES. SOME OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO EXPLAIN THIS: 1.) OLDER PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES CANNOT AFFORD THE COST OF NURSING HOME CARE, 2.) THE NURSING HOMES ARE NOT BEING BUILT WITHIN MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES, AND 3.) THE TRADITION OF THE MEXICAN AMERICAN FAMILY REJECTS THE IDEA OF RESIDENCE IN A NURSING HOME. WHICH OF THESE EXPLANATIONS MAKES THE MOST SENSE TO YOU? 1.____ 2.____ 3.____

CAN YOU THINK OF ANY OTHER REASONS THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN WHY ELDERLY MEXICAN AMERICANS DO NOT CHOOSE TO LIVE IN A NURSING HOME?

(RECORD RESPONSE)_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____.

16. WOULD YOU CONSIDER RESIDENCE IN A NURSING HOME UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS?

1. IF SERVICES WERE MADE AVAILABLE AT NO COST.....Yes____ No____

2. IF NURSING HOMES WERE LOCATED IN THE MEXICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY.....Yes____ No____

3. IF NURSING HOME FACILITIES WERE OPERATED BY MEXICAN AMERICANS, FOR MEXICAN AMERICANS.....Yes____ No____

4. IF YOU REQUIRED 24 HOUR A DAY HEALTH CARE SERVICE.....Yes____ No____

ARE THERE ANY OTHER CONDITIONS THAT WOULD LEAD YOU TO CONSIDER TAKING RESIDENCE IN A NURSING HOME?

(RECORD ANSWER)_____

_____

_____

_____.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY.

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15. PARECE QUE LA MAYORIA DE LOS ANCIANOS MEXICO AMERICANOS NO ESCOGEN VIVIR EN ASILOS DE ANCIANOS. LAS SIGUIENTES RAZONES HAN SIDO SUGERIDAS PARA EXPLICAR LO ANTERIOR: 1) LOS ANCIANOS Y SUS FAMILIARES NO TIENEN DINERO PARA LOS SERVICIOS DE UN ASILO DE ANCIANOS, 2) LOS ASILOS DE ANCIANOS NO HAN SIDO DISEÑADOS DENTRO LA COMUNIDAD MEXICO AMERICANA, 3) LA TRADICION DE LA FAMILIA MEXICO AMERICANA RECHAZA LA IDEA DE VIVIR EN UN ASILO DE ANCIANOS. ¿CUAL DE LAS RAZONES ANTERIORES LE PARECE MAS ADECUADA? 1._____ 2._____ 3._____

¿PODRIA USTED AGREGAR OTRAS RAZONES POR LAS CUALES LOS ANCIANOS MEXICO AMERICANOS NO ESCOGEN VIVIR EN UN ASILO DE ANCIANOS?

(ANOTE LA RESPUESTA)_____

16. ¿CONSIDERARIA USTED RESIDENCIA EN UN ASILO DE ANCIANOS BAJO DE UNA DE LAS SIGUIENTES CONDICIONES?

1. SI LOS SERVICIOS FUERAN GRATIS.....SI_____ NO_____
2. SI LOS ASILOS DE ANCIANOS ESTUVIERAN LOCALIZADOS DENTRO DE LA COMUNIDAD MEXICO AMERICANA.....SI_____ NO_____
3. SI LOS ASILOS DE ANCIANOS FUERAN MANEJADOS PARA Y POR LOS MEXICO AMERICANOS.....SI_____ NO_____
4. SI USTED REQUIRIERA ATENCION MEDICA LAS 24 HORAS DEL DIA. SI_____ NO_____

¿EXISTEN OTRAS CONDICIONES QUE LE LLEVARIAN A CONSIDERAR RESIDENCIA EN UN ASILO DE ANCIANOS?

(ANOTE LA RESPUESTA)_____

GRACIAS POR SU PARTICIPACION EN ESTE ESTUDIO

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INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS RELATIVE TO THIS INTERVIEW

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COMMENTARIOS DEL ENTREVISTADOR TOCANTE ESTE ENTREVISTA

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APPENDIX B

ATTITUDES OF HISPANIC AMERICANS IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY TOWARD NURSING HOMES

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE:

1. INTERVIEWER: _____.

   TIME AND DATE OF INTERVIEW _____.

FROM OBSERVATION INTERVIEWER RECORDS THE FOLLOWING:

2. SEX OF RESPONDENT: (CIRCLE APPROPRIATE NUMBER)
   - MALE.....1
   - FEMALE.....2

INTERVIEWER ASKS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

3. WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE?

   (RECORD CITY OR TOWN) _____.

4. WHAT KIND OF BUILDING DO YOU LIVE IN?
   - PRIVATE HOUSE.....1
   - APARTMENT.....2
   - OTHER _____ 3.

---

5. WHO DO YOU PRESENTLY LIVE WITH?
   - SPOUSE.....1
   - CHILDREN.....2
   - RELATIVES.....3
   - BY SELF.....4
   - OTHER _____ 5.

6. HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED AT THIS ADDRESS?

   (RECORD NUMBER OF YEARS & MONTHS) _____.

---

7. WHAT IS YOUR MARITAL STATUS? (CIRCLE APPROPRIATE NUMBER)
   - SINGLE (NEVER MARRIED).....1
   - MARRIED.....2
   - DIVORCED/SEPARATED.....3
   - WIDOWED.....4

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ACTITUDES DE LOS HISPANOS AMERICANOS
ACERCA DE LAS CASAS DE ANCIANOS
EN EL CONDADO DE KALAMAZOO

DATOS DE LA ENTREVISTA:

1. ENTREVISTADOR: _____.

   HORA Y FECHA DE LA ENTREVISTA _____.

DE LO OBSERVADO EL ENTREVISTADOR ANOTA LO SIGUIENTE:

2. SEXO DEL ENTREVISTADO: (CIRCULE EL NUMERO APROPIADO)
   MASCULINO.....1
   FEMENINO.....2

EL ENTREVISTADOR HACE LAS SIGUIENTES PREGUNTAS:

3. ¿DONDE VIVE UD. ACTUALMENTE?

   (ANOTE LA CIUDAD O PUEBLO) _____.

4. ¿EN QUE TIPO DE VIVIENDA VIVE USTED?
   CASA PROPIA.....1
   APARTAMENTO.....2
   OTRA(O) _____3

---

5. ¿CON QUIEN VIVE USTED ACTUALMENTE?
   ESPOSA(O).....1
   HIJOS.....2
   PARIENTES.....3
   SOLA(O).....4
   OTRO _____5

6. ¿CUANTO TIEMPO HA VIVIDO EN ESTA DIRECCION?

   (ANOTE EL NUMERO DE AÑOS Y MESES) _____.

---

7. ¿CUAL ES SU ESTADO CIVIL? (CIRCULE EL NUMERO APROPIADO)
   SOLTERO (NUNCA CASADO).....1
   CASADO(A).....2
   DIVORCIADO/SEPARADO.....3
   VIUDO(A).....4

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8. WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

UNITED STATES.....1

MEXICO.....2

OTHER _____3

IF THE PERSON WAS BORN IN OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTION, OTHERWISE PROCEED TO QUESTION #10.

9. HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU LIVED IN THE UNITED STATES?

(RECORD NUMBER OF YEARS & MONTHS)_____.

---

10. IN WHAT LANGUAGE(S) CAN YOU COMMUNICATE?

SPANISH.....1

ENGLISH.....2

BOTH OF THE ABOVE.....3

OTHER(S) _____4

_____5

---

11. WHAT KINDS OF WORK DID YOU DO FOR THE LONGEST PERIOD OF TIME?

(RECORD ANSWER)_____

_____.

HOW LONG?_____.

ARE YOU PRESENTLY RETIRED? YES____ NO____.

IF PERSON IS RETIRED ASK:

WHAT KIND OF WORK WERE YOU DOING WHEN YOU RETIRED?_____

_____

_____.

12. WHAT IS YOUR PAST EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE?_____

_____

_____.

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8. ¿DONDE NACIO USTED?

ESTADOS UNIDOS.....1

MEXICO.....2

OTRO _____ 3

SI LA PERSONA NACIO EN UN PAIS FUERA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS HAGA LA SIGUIENTE PREGUNTA SI NO CONTINUE CON LA PREGUNTA NUMERO 10.

9. ¿CUANTOS AÑOS HA VIVIDO EN LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS?

(ANOTE EL NUMERO DE AÑOS Y MESES)_____.

10. ¿EN QUE IDIOMA(S) PUEDE USTED COMUNICARSE?

ESPAÑOL.....1

INGLES.....2

AMBOS.....3

OTRO _____ 4

_____ 5

11. ¿QUE CLASE DE TRABAJO HIZO USTED DURANTE LA MAYOR PARTE DE SU VIDA?

(ANOTE LA RESPUESTA)_____

_____.

¿POR CUANTO TIEMPO? _____.

ACTUALMENTE ¿ESTA USTED JUBILADO? SI_____ NO_____.

SI LA PERSONA ESTA JUBILADA PREGUNTE LO SIGUIENTE:

¿QUE CLASE DE TRABAJO HACIA USTED CUANDO LO JUBILARON?_____

_____

_____.

12. ¿CUAL ES LA EDUCACION QUE HA RECIBIDO?_____

_____

_____.

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13. HOW OLD ARE YOU?

60-64.....1
65-69.....2
70-74.....3
75-79.....4
80-84.....5
85 & OVER.....6

---

14. DO YOU KNOW WHAT A NURSING HOME IS? YES_____ NO_____

IF THE PERSON SAYS YES, ASK:

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT NURSING HOMES?_____

15. WHAT INFORMATION DO YOU HAVE ABOUT NURSING HOMES?

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13. ¿ QUE EDAD TIENE USTED?

60-64.....1
65-69.....2
70-74.....3
75-79.....4
80-84.....5
85 O MAS.....6

---

14. ¿SABE USTED LO QUE ES UNA CASA DE ANCIANOS? SI_____ NO_____

SI LA PERSONA RESPONDE QUE SI, PREGUNTELE.

¿CUAL ES SU OPINION ACERCA DE LAS CASAS DE ANCIANOS? _____

15. ¿ QUE INFORMACION TIENE DE LAS CASAS DE ANCIANOS?

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16. IT APPEARS THAT MOST ELDERLY HISPANIC AMERICANS DO NOT CHOOSE TO LIVE IN NURSING HOMES. SOME OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO EXPLAIN THIS: 1.)OLDER PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES CANNOT AFFORD THE COST OF NURSING HOME CARE, 2.)THE NURSING HOMES ARE NOT STAFFED WITH BILINGUAL/BICULTURAL PERSONNEL,AND 3.)THE TRADITION OF THE HISPANIC AMERICAN FAMILY REJECTS THE IDEA OF RESIDENCE IN A NURSING HOME. WHICH OF THESE EXPLANATIONS MAKES THE MOST SENSE TO YOU? 1._____ 2._____ 3._____

CAN YOU THINK OF ANY OTHER REASONS THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN WHY ELDERLY HISPANIC AMERICANS DO NOT CHOOSE TO LIVE IN A NURSING HOME?

(RECORD RESPONSE)_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____.

17.A. WOULD YOU CONSIDER RESIDENCE IN A NURSING HOME UNDER ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS?

1.) IF SERVICES WERE MADE AVAILABLE AT NO COST....Yes___ No___

2.) IF NURSING HOME FACILITIES HAVE BILINGUAL/BICULTURAL STAFF..... Yes___ No___

3.) IF YOU REQUIRED 24 HOUR A DAY HEALTH CARE SERVICE..... Yes___ No___

B. CAN YOU TELL ME WHICH OF THE ABOVE:

1.) IS THE MOST IMPORTANT,.....#1___ 2___ 3___

2.) IS THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT.....#1___ 2___ 3___

3.) IS THE THIRD MOST IMPORTANT.....#1___ 2___ 3___

C. ARE THERE ANY OTHER CONDITIONS THAT WOULD LEAD YOU TO CONSIDER TAKING RESIDENCE IN A NURSING HOME?

(RECORD ANSWER)_____

_____

_____

_____ _____.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY.

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16. PARECE QUE LA MAYORIA DE LOS ANCIANOS HISPANOS AMERICANOS NO ESCOGEN VIVIR EN CASAS DE ANCIANOS. LAS SIGUIENTES RAZONES HAN SIDO SUGERIDAS PARA EXPLICAR LO ANTERIOR: 1) LOS ANCIANOS Y SUS FAMILIARES NO TIENEN DINERO PARA LOS SERVICIOS DE UNA CASA DE ANCIANOS, 2) LAS CASAS DE ANCIANOS NO TIENEN TRABAJADORES BILINGUES/BICULTURALES,Y 3) LA TRADICION DE LA FAMILIA HISPANA AMERICANA RECHAZA LA IDEA DE VIVIR EN CASA DE ANCIANOS.¿CUAL DE LAS RAZONES ANTERIORES LE PARECE MAS ADECUADA? 1.____ 2.___ 3.___

¿ PODRIA USTED AGREGAR OTRAS RAZONES POR LAS CUALES LOS ANCIANOS HISPANO AMERICANOS NO ESCOGEN VIVIR EN CASAS DE ANCIANOS?

(ANOTE LA RESPUESTA)_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

17.A.¿CONSIDERARIA USTED RESIDENCIA EN UNA CASA DE ANCIANOS BAJO CUALQUIERA DE LAS SIGUIENTES CONDICIONES?

1.) SI LOS SERVICIOS FUERAN GRATIS.....SI____ NO____

2.) SI LAS CASAS DE ANCIANOS TUBIERAN TRABAJADORES BILINGUES/ BICULTURALES.....SI____ NO____

3.) SI USTED REQUIRIERA ATENCION MEDICA LAS 24 HORAS DEL DIA SI____ NO____

B.ME PODRIA DECIR QUE SERIA:

1.)LO MAS IMPORTANTE.....#1____ 2____ 3____

2.)LO DE SEGUNDA IMPORTANCIA.....#1_____ 2____ 3____

3.)LO DE TERCERA IMPORTANCIA.....#1_____ 2____ 3____

C. ¿ EXISTEN OTRAS CONDICIONES QUE LE LLEVARIAN A CONSIDERAR RESIDENCIA EN UNA CASA DE ANCIANOS?

(ANOTE LA RESPUESTA)_____

_____

_____

GRACIAS POR SU PARTICIPACION EN ESTE ESTUDIO

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INTERVIEWER'S COMMENTS RELATIVE TO THIS INTERVIEW

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COMMENTARIOS DEL ENTREVISTADOR TOCANTE ESTE ENTREVISTA

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Buenos Días!

Would you prefer that I speak in English or Spanish?

My name is _____ and I am doing a survey for the Western Michigan University and the Kalamazoo County Commission on Aging which are conducting a study of the attitudes of the 60 years of age and older Hispanic Americans of Kalamazoo County toward nursing homes.

This survey is being carried out under the direction of George Fisher, ex-Chairman of the Kalamazoo County Commission on Aging. It is important that we obtain the opinions of as many as possible of the Hispanic Americans who reside in Kalamazoo County so that they can be served better in their old age.

All individual opinions will be confidential and anonymous. The results of this study will be summarized for the entire group so that individual identification will be impossible.

I will be very happy to answer any questions you might have about the survey. Also if you desire further information, please feel free to call Dr. Roberto Flachier, President of the Hispanic American Council, 343-6185; or Sister Rosemary Tierney, 345-1232; or George Fisher, 345-2555; or Dr. Ellen Page-Robin, Western Michigan University, 383-1747.

I will appreciate being allowed to visit with you in order to ask you a few questions which will take about 10 minutes to answer. Please tell me when it will be convenient for me to do so. Thank you. I will see you at _____ (repeat time and day visit is to be made).

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Introduccion General

Buenos Dias!

¿Prefiere usted que hable en Inglés o en Español?

Mi nombre es _____, estoy haciendo un estudio para la Universidad de Western Michigan y para Kalamazoo County Commision on Aging, comite interesado en los servicios para ancianos.

Se está estudiando la opinión que tienen los Hispanoamericanos, de 60 años o más, acerca de las Casas para Ancianos.

Este estudio es dirigido por George Fisher, ex-director de Kalamazoo County Commission on Aging. Es muy importante que tengamos la opinión de la mayoría de los Hispanoamericanos que viven en el Condado de Kalamazoo, para que ellos reciban los mejores servicios en su vejez.

Las opiniones personales serán confidenciales y anónimas. Los resultados del estudio serán presentados como un total de las opiniones del grupo, lo cual hará imposible identificar respuestas personales.

Con gusto responderé a cualquier pregunta que usted tenga acerca de este estudio. Por favor llame al: Dr:roberto Flachier, Presidente del Consilio Hispanoa ericano, 343-6185; o Hermana Rosemary Tierney, 345-1232; o George Fisher, 345-2555; o Dr. Ellen Page-Robin, Western michigan University, 383-1747.

Le agradecerlá si me permite visitarle por unos diez minutos para que conteste algunas preguntas necesarias para este estudio. Por favor dígame que fecha y hora son convenientes para que yo le le visite .... gracias.

Tendre el gusto de verle_____

(repetir la fecha y la hora de la vista)

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APPENDIX D

Question 14: What is your opinion about nursing homes?

Negative Responses:

1. I do not like them.

2. I have heard that they do not treat people well in those places. They keep the old people dirty.

3. Sad place to be. Place to go if the family cannot take care of the father and mother. Last resort only if you cannot live independently or with family.

4. I believe they should be thoroughly checked out before one commits himself/herself to become a resident in one since the care in some is poor. Even though I feel that I would only go to one as a last resort, I will not object to living in a nursing home when I cannot take care of myself, i.e., requiring 24-hour a day health care service.

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APPENDIX E

Question 14: What is your opinion about nursing homes?

Positive Responses:

1. I have a good concept of nursing homes. I like them, but not for me.

2. In general, I think they are fulfilling a need.

3. I like them.

4. Nursing homes are useful for people who are in real need of doctor and nursing care 24 hours a day, or for people who do not have relatives to look after them when they reach a certain age.

5. Serves its purpose, and is good when a person cannot live independently. I would not object to living in a nursing home if I needed continual health care services. (2 respondents)

6. Useful houses for old people. Rather expensive and their qualifications vary from very good to very bad.

7. They are a very needed place.

8. Very needed institutions. The one I am familiar with is excellent in every respect. The residents are given very good care. The employees and management go out of their way to give the best care. No relative could do better. This is a very difficult responsibility and they meet it with love and concern.

9. Very good -- some of them -- but only as a last resource.

10. They are fine.

11. They are good.

12. Magnificient, they are clean.

13. Before becoming a resident in a nursing home, I had no opinion. However, now that I am a resident in a nursing home, I am well impressed and satisfied. It is a good place for the elderly who need constant care. A good shelter for the elderly. I feel secure and very confident.

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APPENDIX F

Question 16: Can you think of any other reasons that might explain why elderly Hispanic Americans do not choose to live in a nursing home?

Responses:

1. Care is not as good as it should be. Otherwise, no objection to being in a nursing home.

2. Rather be with family and not feel abandoned.

3. Closeness to family. Do not have the familiarity that one has at home.

4. The tradition of Hispanic families keeps the elderly at home with their children. In this way we are different than Americans.

5. It is a hard decision to leave one's home for a strange environment.

6. As long as there is somebody in the family who can take care of them. Hispanic Americans know how to live very economically and they would rather share a loaf of bread together than have steak separated from each other.

7. As a tradition, Latins keep their elderly and care for them at home. The language difference is a problem.

8. Poverty and tradition makes it easy to understand why Latins do not belong in nursing homes. However, Latins living long enough in the U.S. would not object to the idea.

9. Wants to live with spouse in their own home as long as possible. (2 respondents)

10. All three of the above are valid reasons and probably the most common reasons. I believe the main reason is that you are brought up in a culture where the family is very close, and when people grow older they are given more love and care they are not displaced. In many occasions there is always one person in the family who has never workded outside of the home. In general, the new society in most countries is a working society and they cannot take care of the elderly at home if they have to go out to work.

11. Old people are mistreated in nursing homes.

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APPENDIX G

Question 17 C: Are there any other conditions that would lead you to consider taking residence in a nursing home?

Responses:

1. Only if I needed medical attention 24 hours a day. (2 respondents)
2. If my spouse was dead and my children could not take care of me.
3. Prefers not to be a burden to the spouse or family. (3 respondents)
4. No, unless absolutely necessary.
5. As soon as I cannot help myself and do things on my own.
6. If I had nowhere else to go.
7. If I have the means and am by myself, I certainly would consider being a guest of one.
8. If I felt that I was a burden to my family, or if I could not be taken care of properly and was left alone to die.
9. If a person does not have relatives available that could take care of him/her properly. Then, if necessary, it would be nice to have a place where the person need not pay for expenses.
10. I like them.

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